

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Meet Epaphroditus, A Servant of the Church

Philippians

2:25-30



25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. 26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: 30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.



Philippians 2:25



- Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

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A Trinity
Family
Fellow Worker
Fellow Soldier



Philemon 1-2 (ESV)

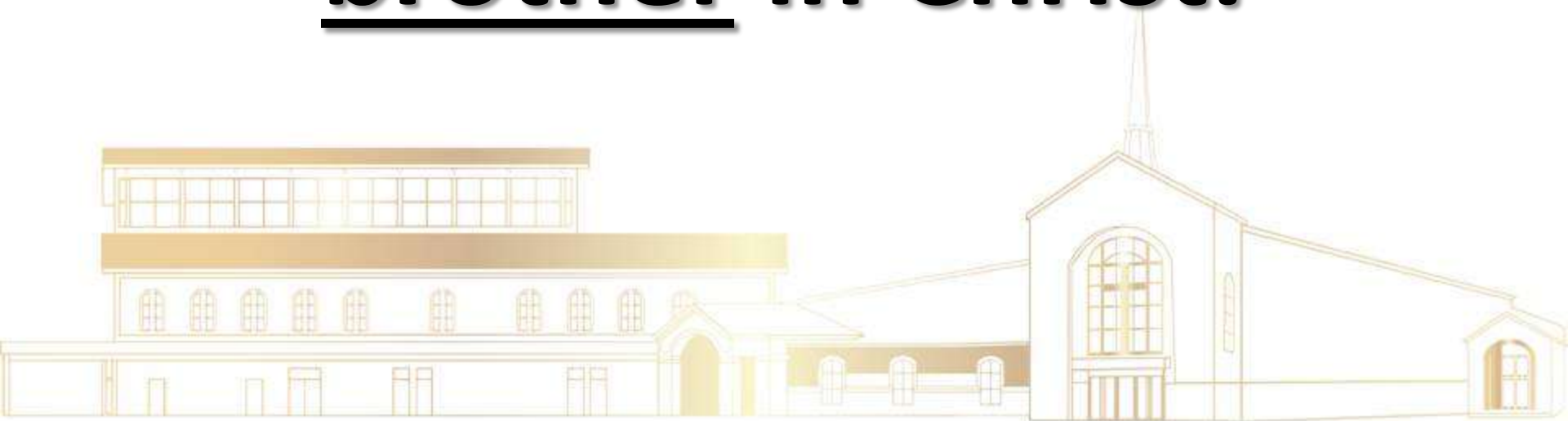
- Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus,
and Timothy **our brother**, To
Philemon our beloved **fellow
worker** ² and Apphia **our sister**
and Archippus our **fellow soldier**,
and the church in your house:



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#1

**Epaphroditus is a
brother in Christ.**



Romans 16:1

- I commend unto you
Phebe our sister,
which is a servant of the
church which is at
Cenchrea:



**WE ARE NOT
JUST FRIENDS**

**WE ARE
FAMILY**





A scene from Blue Bloods in which grandson Danny Reagan is apologizing to his grandfather and the grandfather is apologizing to Danny.



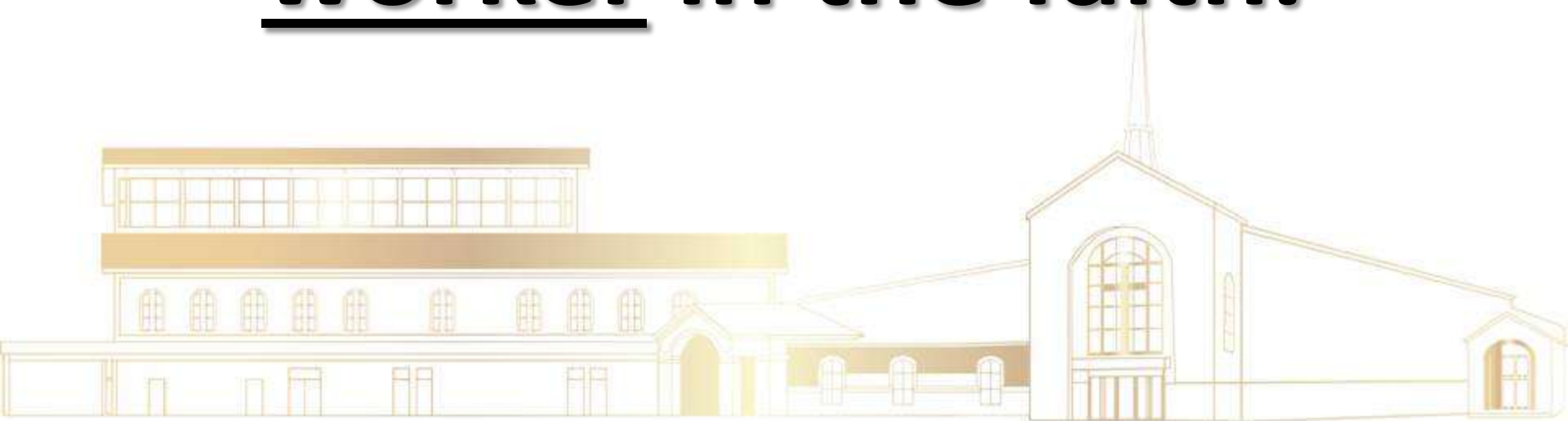
A Family Reunion



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#2

**Epaphroditus is a fellow
worker in the faith.**



Romans 16:3

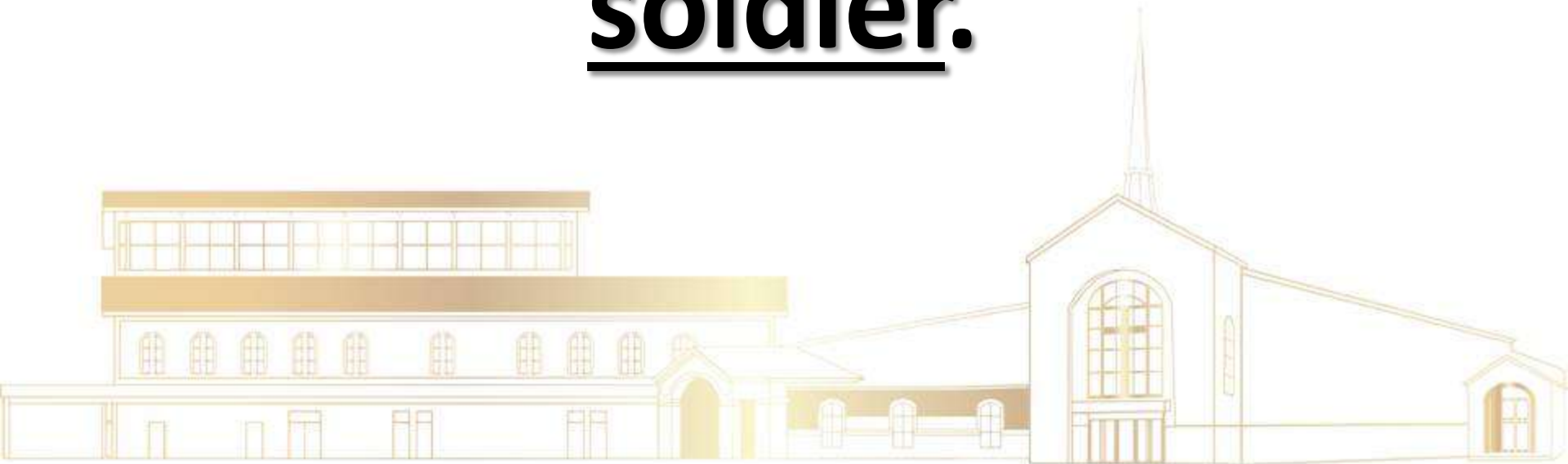
- Greet Prisca and Aquila, **my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,**



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#3

**Epaphroditus is a fellow
soldier.**



2 Timothy 2:3 (AV)

- Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.



2 Timothy 2:4 (ESV)

- No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.



Philippians 2:25



- But for now I have considered it necessary to send Epaphroditus to you.
- For he is my brother, coworker and fellow soldier, **and your messenger**

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**Epaphroditus probably
volunteered to deliver
both a letter and an
offering to Paul.**



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Look Over @ Philippians 4:18



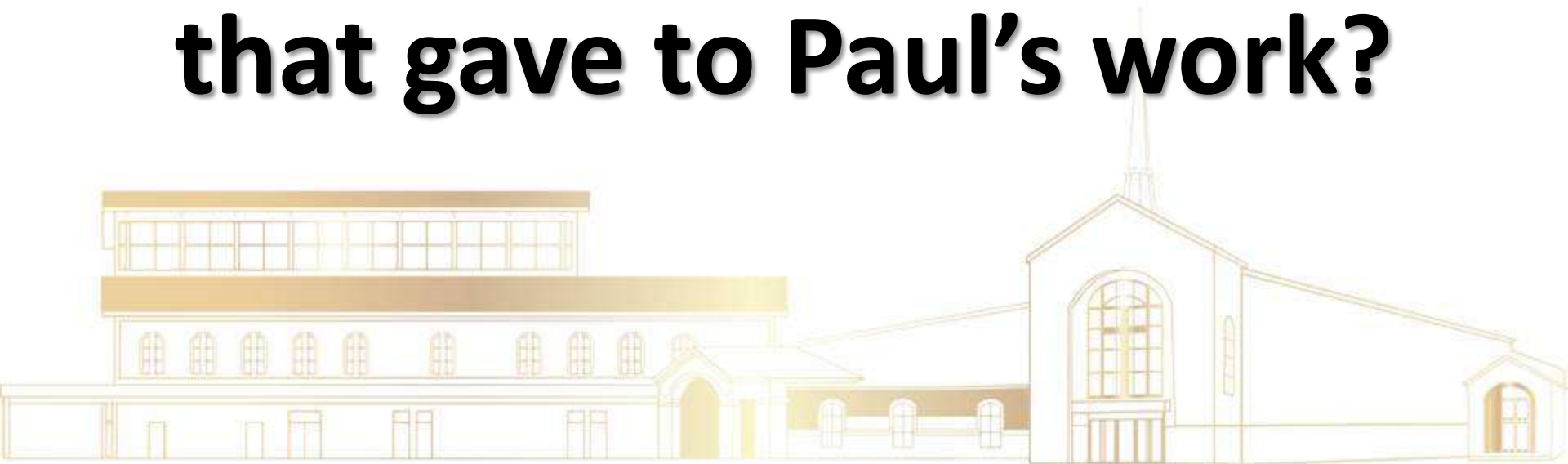
Philippians 4:18



- I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

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**If you were part of the
church at Philippi would
you be part of the group
that gave to Paul's work?**



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Why Would a person give to the Apostle Paul's work?



Philippians 2:25



- But for now I have considered it necessary to send Epaphroditus to you.
- For he is my brother, coworker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to me in my need.

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**Notice Epaphroditus was a
brother, coworker,
fellow soldier,
messenger and minister.**



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Minister

The Greek here is not *doulos*.

*This is someone who
attends to the needs of
someone else.*



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**Where did we look at
this idea last week?**

Hungry, Thirsty, Naked, Sick, Prison



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Turn Back to Matthew 25:31ff



When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: ³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats: ³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: ³⁶ Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. ³⁷ Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?



³⁸ When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*? ³⁹ Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² For I was hungry, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. ⁴⁴ Then shall they also answer him, saying, **Lord, when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?**



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**Who will you
minister to this
week?**



Philippians 2:26

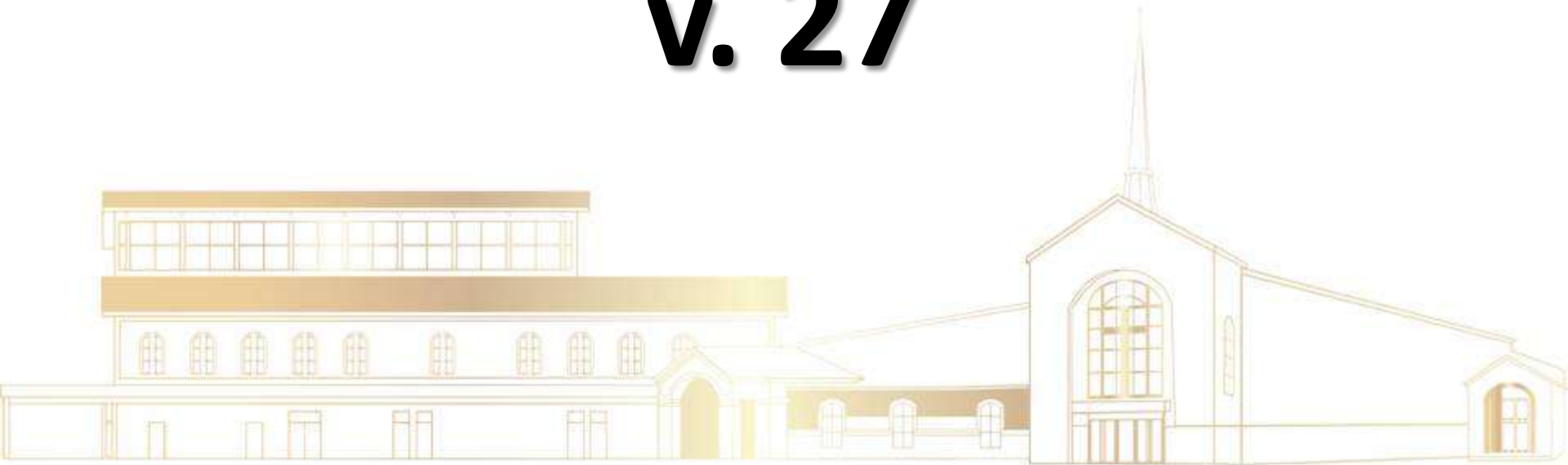


- For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

This sickness was nearly fatal.

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Notice the Sovereignty of God in v. 27



Philippians 2:27

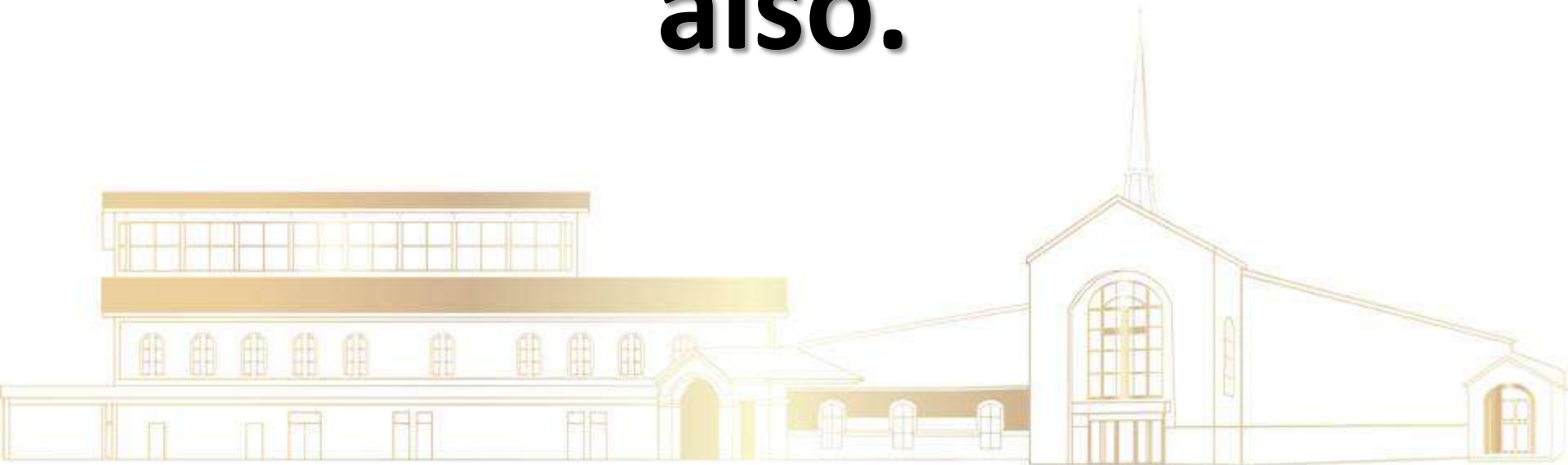


- For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him;

Not dying of illness is mercy from God.

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**Then Paul speaks of
God's mercy to him
also.**





Philippians 2:27

- and not on him only,
- but on me also,
- lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

How close is Paul to this man?

They are brothers, coworkers, and fellow soldiers.

Philippians 2:28



- I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

Paul feels responsible for taking this man away from his church in Philippi.

Philippians 2:28 (NASB95)



- Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned *about you*.

Paul's concern was the reality that Epaphroditus almost died when he was with Paul.

Philippians 2:29



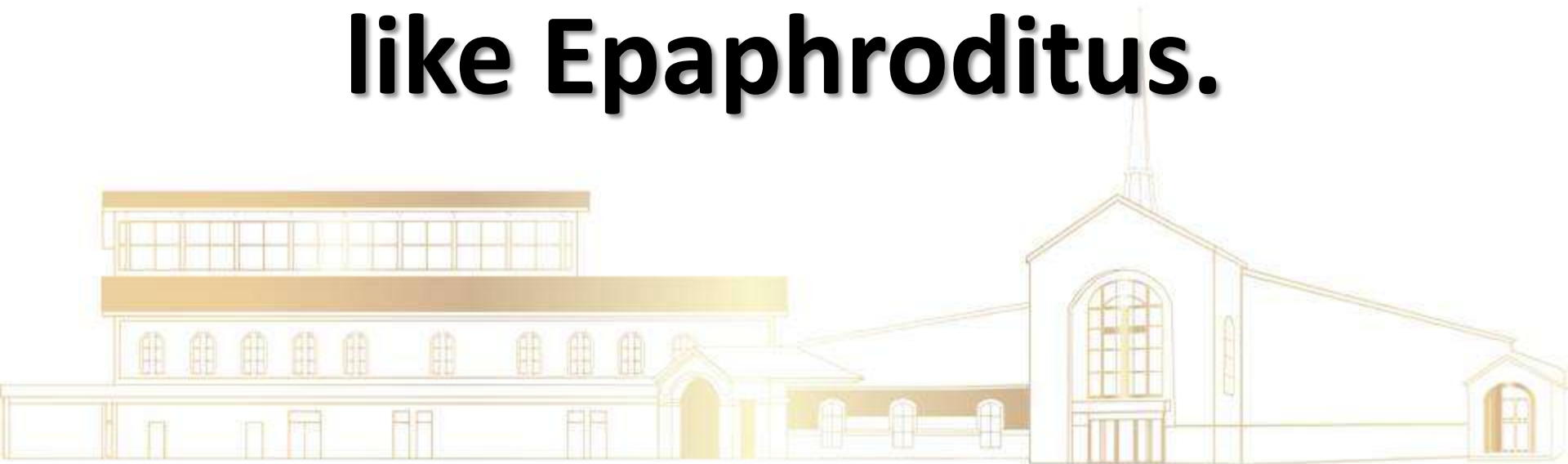
- Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

ESV

- So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men,

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**The church needs to
actively honor men and
women who serve Christ
like Epaphroditus.**





**We need to honor both the
living and the dead!**

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**Paul speaks of honoring
those who labor in the
ministry again in
1 Timothy 5:17**



1 Timothy 5:17

- Let **the elders** that rule well be counted worthy **of double honor,**
- especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.



IMO (In My Opinion)

- Nothing protects the church more from departing from orthodoxy in word and deed (doctrine and practice) than **honoring a plurality of elders who collectively labor in preaching and teaching.** This plurality keeps a rogue preacher from single-handedly guiding the church off course.



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Look Back @ v. 30



Philippians 2:30



- **Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.**

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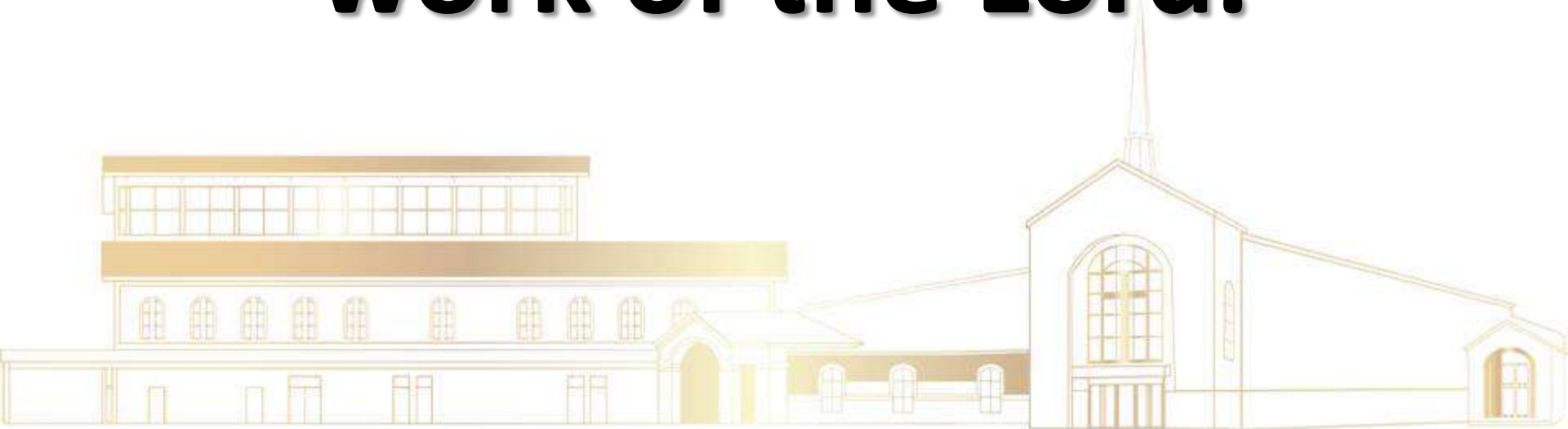
Seven Ways Epaphroditus is like Christ



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#1

**Epaphroditus did the
work of the Lord.**



John 17:4 (ESV)

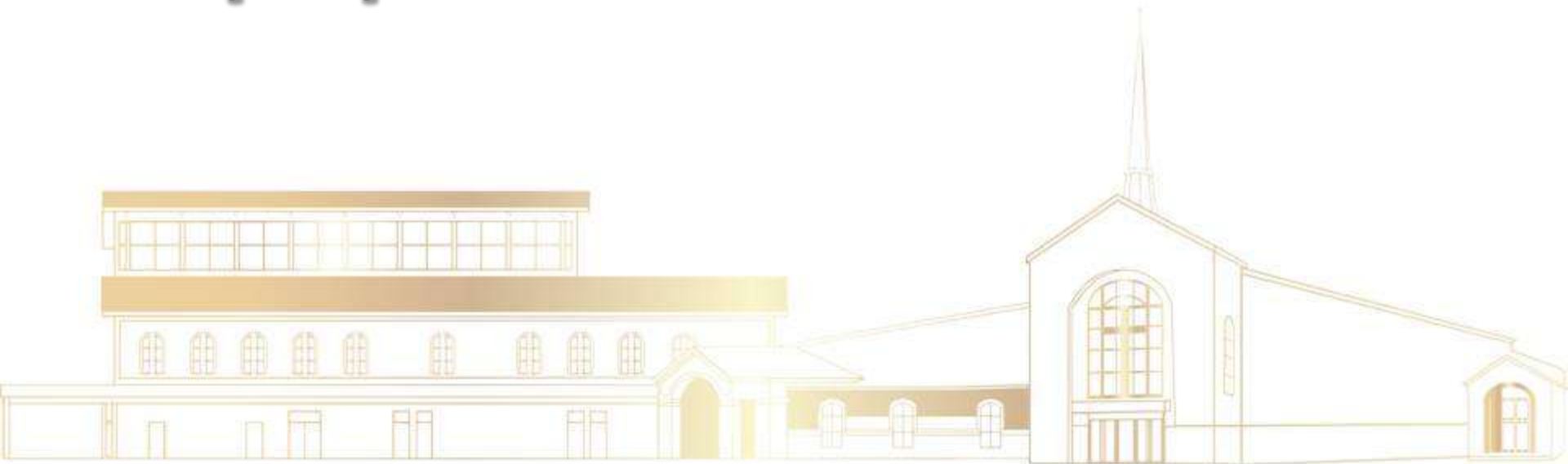
- I glorified you on earth, having accomplished **the work** that you gave me to do.



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#2

Epaphroditus was sent.



John 4:34 (ESV)

- Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him **who sent me** and to accomplish his work.



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#3

**Epaphroditus was a
messenger.**



John 14:10

- Believeest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?
the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself:
but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.



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#4

**Epaphroditus
ministered to the needs
of others.**



Mark 10:45

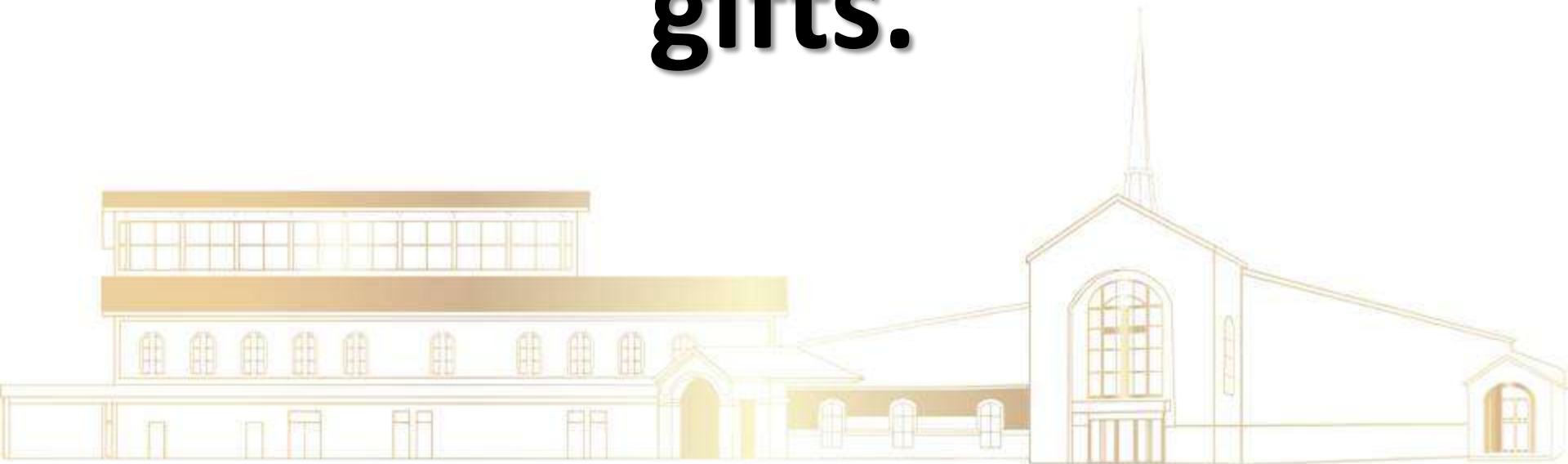
- For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, **but to minister**, and to give his life a ransom for many.



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#5

**Epaphroditus brought
gifts.**



Romans 3:24 (ESV)

- and are justified by his grace as a gift,

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



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#6

**Epaphroditus endured
hardship in his service.**



Hebrews 12:2

- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.



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#7

**Epaphroditus was near
unto death and
recovered.**



1 Corinthians 15:3-4

- For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died for our sins** according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, **and that he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures:

